

CLAIMS

1. A content reproduction apparatus comprising:

a storage section used for storing a source-ID list showing a source of every content allowed to be reproduced and method identification information each used for identifying a method of controlling reproduction of each content;

a reproduction control method determination section for determining a method of controlling reproduction of a content on the basis of said method identification information;

a first reproducibility determination section, which is used for producing a result of determination as to whether or not a content to be reproduced is reproducible by determining whether or not a source ID attached to said content is a source ID included in said source-ID list in case said reproduction control method determination section determines that said method to control reproduction of a content is a first reproduction control method;

a second reproducibility determination section, which is used for producing a result of determination as to whether or not a content to be reproduced is reproducible on the basis of usage rule information

described in a license issued to said content in case said reproduction control method determination section determines that said method to control reproduction of a content is a second reproduction control method; and

a reproduction execution section for reproducing a content determined by said determination result produced by said first reproducibility determination section or said second reproducibility determination section to be a reproducible content.

2. The content reproduction apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said source ID includes a group ID generated as an ID unique to each of users registered in a group management server.

3. The content reproduction apparatus according to claim 2 wherein a group ID for a user making a request for transmission of a content from a content distribution server to a content-processing apparatus is added to said transmitted content.

4. The content reproduction apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said source ID includes a recorder ID generated as an ID unique to each content-processing apparatus having a ripping section for ripping out a content from a recording medium.

5. The content reproduction apparatus according to

claim 4 wherein said content-processing apparatus having a ripping section attaches said recorder ID assigned to said content-processing apparatus itself to said content ripped off from said recording medium.

6. The content reproduction apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said usage rule information includes limit information of the number of times said content can be reproduced.

7. The content reproduction apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said usage rule information includes a deadline of a period in which said content can be reproduced.

8. The content reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, said content reproduction apparatus further comprising a communication section for setting a connection to a content-processing apparatus and communicating with said content-processing apparatus, wherein said content-processing apparatus is capable of updating said method identification information.

9. The content reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, said content reproduction apparatus further comprising a display section for displaying the title information of one or more contents held in said content reproduction apparatus, wherein said display section

displays title information of contents determined by said first reproducibility determination section or said second reproducibility determination section to be reproducible contents and title information of contents determined by said first reproducibility determination section or said second reproducibility determination section to be irreproducible contents in such a way that said title information of said reproducible contents can be distinguished from said title information of said irreproducible contents.

10. The content reproduction apparatus according to claim 9, said content reproduction apparatus further comprising a content select section for selecting at least one from those displayed on said display section as title information of reproducible contents, wherein:

 said storage section is used for storing content management information associating the title information of every content with location information at which said content has been stored; and

 said reproduction execution section reads out a content indicated by title information, which is selected by said content select section, on the basis of said content management information and reproduces said content.

11. The content reproduction apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said display section displays title list information of contents determined to be reproducible contents with a color and/or a degree of luminance, which are different from those for irreproducible-content title information also shown on said title list as contents determined to be irreproducible contents.

12. The content reproduction apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said display section displays title list information of contents determined to be reproducible contents and title information of contents determined to be irreproducible contents in such a way that said reproducible contents and said irreproducible contents can be distinguished from each other.

13. The content reproduction apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said display section displays a title list adding different icons to title information of contents determined to be reproducible contents and title information of contents determined to be irreproducible contents, respectively.

14. The content reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, said content reproduction apparatus further comprising a communication section for setting a

connection to a content-processing apparatus and communicating with said content-processing apparatus, wherein said resource-ID list stored in said storage section is updated on the basis of a source-ID list owned by said content-processing apparatus when said content reproduction apparatus is registered through said content-processing apparatus in the same apparatus group in a group management server as said content-processing apparatus.

15. The content reproduction apparatus according to claim 1, said content reproduction apparatus being a portable content reproduction apparatus having a hard-disk drive.

16. A content reproduction control method for controlling reproduction of a content in a content reproduction apparatus, said content reproduction control method comprising:

a reproduction control method determination step of determining a method to control reproduction of a content on the basis of method identification information each showing a method to control reproduction of a content;

a first reproducibility determination step, which is executed to produce a result of determination as to

whether or not a content to be reproduced is reproducible by determining whether or not a source ID attached to said content is a source ID included in said source-ID list in case said method to control reproduction of a content is determined to be a first reproduction control method at said reproduction control method determination step;

a second reproducibility determination step, which is executed to produce a result of determination as to whether or not a content to be reproduced is reproducible on the basis of usage rule information described in a license issued to said content in case said method to control reproduction of a content is determined to be a second reproduction control method at said reproduction control method determination step; and

a reproduction step of reproducing a content determined by said determination result produced at said first reproducibility determination step or said second reproducibility determination step to be a reproducible content.

17. The content reproduction control method according to claim 16 wherein said source ID includes a group ID generated as an ID unique to each of users registered in a group management server.

18. The content reproduction control method according to claim 16 wherein said source ID includes a recorder ID generated as an ID unique to each content-processing apparatus having a ripping section for ripping out a content from a recording medium.

19. The content reproduction control method according to claim 16 wherein said usage rule information includes a limit of the number of times that said content can be reproduced.

20. The content reproduction control method according to claim 16 wherein said usage rule information includes a deadline of a period in which said content can be reproduced.

21. The content reproduction control method according to claim 16, said content reproduction control method further comprising the step of requesting a content-processing apparatus connected to said content reproduction apparatus to update said method identification information.

22. The content reproduction control method according to claim 16, said content reproduction control method further comprising a display step of displaying said title information of one or more of contents held in said content reproduction apparatus, wherein said

display step is executed to display title information of contents determined at said first reproducibility determination step or said second reproducibility determination step to be reproducible contents and title information of contents determined at said first reproducibility determination step or said second reproducibility determination step to be irreproducible contents in such a way that said reproducible contents can be distinguished from said irreproducible contents.

23. The content reproduction control method according to claim 22, said content representation step further comprising a content select step of selecting at least one from those displayed on said display section as title information of reproducible contents, wherein said reproduction step is executed to read out a content indicated by title information selected at said content select step on the basis of said content management information associating said title information of every content with location information used for storing said content and reproduce said content.

24. The content reproduction control method according to claim 22 wherein said display step is executed to display a title list showing title information of contents determined to be reproducible

contents with a color and/or a degree of luminance, which are different from those for irreproducible content title information also shown on said title list as contents determined to be irreproducible contents.

25. The content reproduction control method according to claim 22 wherein said display step is executed to display a title list showing title information of contents determined to be reproducible contents and title information of contents determined to be irreproducible contents in such a way that said reproducible contents and said irreproducible contents can be distinguished from each other.

26. The content reproduction control method according to claim 22 wherein said display step is executed to display a title list adding different icons to title information of contents determined to be reproducible contents and title information of contents determined to be irreproducible contents, respectively.

27. The content reproduction control method according to claim 16, said content reproduction control method further comprising the step of requesting a group management server through a content-processing apparatus connected to said content reproduction apparatus to register said content reproduction apparatus in the same

apparatus group as said content-processing apparatus and the step of updating said resource-ID list owned by said content reproduction apparatus on the basis of a source-ID list owned by said content-processing apparatus.

28. A program for controlling reproduction of a content in a content reproduction apparatus, comprising:

a reproduction control method determination process of determining a method to control reproduction of a content on the basis of method identification information each showing a method to control reproduction of a content;

a first reproducibility determination process, which is carried out to produce a result of determination as to whether or not a content to be reproduced is reproducible by determining whether or not a source ID attached to said content is a source ID included in said source-ID list in case said method to control reproduction of a content is determined to be a first reproduction control method in said reproduction control method determination process;

a second reproducibility determination process, which is carried out to produce a result of determination as to whether or not a content to be reproduced is reproducible on the basis of usage rule

information described in a license issued to said content in case said method to control reproduction of a content is determined to be a second reproduction control method in said reproduction control method determination process; and

a reproduction process of reproducing a content determined by said determination result produced in said first reproducibility determination process or said second reproducibility determination process to be a reproducible content.